MARVEL COMICS
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
AND
GHOST RIDER
PLUS 3 MORE ALL-NEW FEATURES
DEATHWATCH!

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS

Cover—MARK TEXEIRA
TERRY KAVANAGH—Editor

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WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER ..... Page 1

Acts of Vengeance
Part 4 of 8

"UNEASY ALLIANCE"

While Wolverine and Brass have gone after the kidnapped Emmaline, Ghost Rider and Watanabe pursue the abductors of Jack D'Auria, Dan Ketch's best friend. And all roads lead to Deathwatch . . .

Writer — HOWARD MACKIE
Penciler — MARK TEXEIRA
Inker — HARRY CANDELARIO
Letterer — CLEM ROBINS
Colorist — GREGORY WRIGHT

POISON ..... Page 9

Vandals of the Heart
Part 8 of 8

"RECIPROCITY"

Joe Trinity and Mrinhä have invaded the Slug's estate. The Slug's never-ending party will be transformed into an orgy of violence and destruction. For the first time, he is about to come face to face with POISON.

Writer — STEVE GERBER
Art — CINDY MARTIN
Letterer — TIM HARKINS
Colorist — CHRIS IVY

FANTASTIC FOUR ..... Page 17

Deadly Dimensions
Part 4 of 5

"THE WEB"

Three members of the Fantastic Four have survived bizarre and unexpected threats from an unknown source. Now will Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, also be drawn into . . . the web?

Writer — ROBERT DENATALE
Art — TOM MORGAN
Letterer — TODD KLEIN
Colorist — NEL YOMTOV

SPIDER-MAN ..... Page 25

"SLOW BURN"

Bitten by a radioactive spider, Peter Parker gained the proportionate strength and ability of an arachnid! Armed with his wondrous web-shooters, the reluctant super hero struggles with sinister super-villains, making ends meet and maintaining some semblance of a normal life.

Writer — LEN WEIN
Penciler — DEAN ORMSTROM
Inker — MIKE GUSTOVICH
Letterer — JANICE CHIANG
Colorist — PATY COCKRUM

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS " **Vol. 1, No. 67, 1990.** (ISSN# 1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published biweekly.

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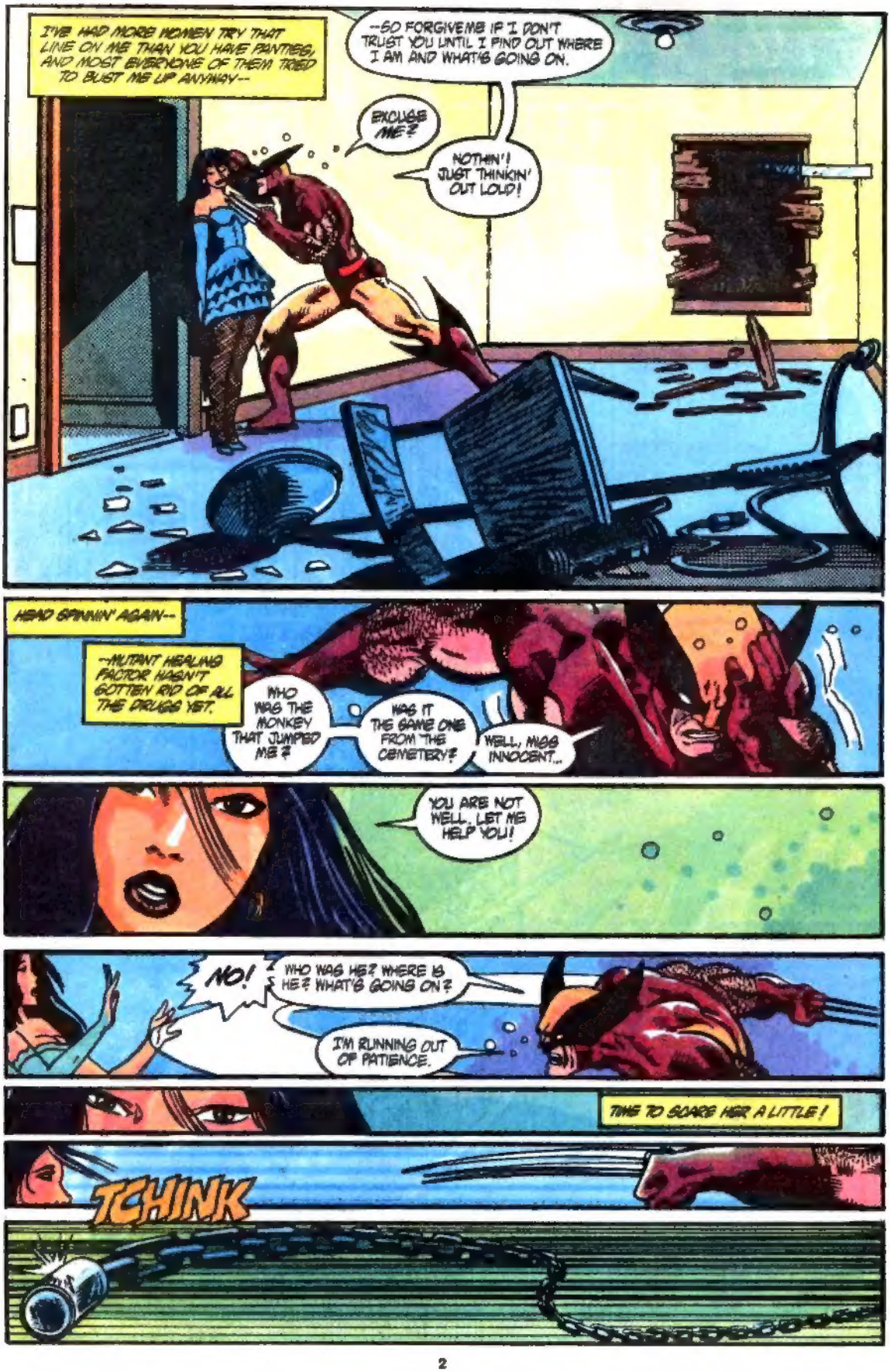
ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 4 UNEASY ALLIANCE

STARRING

WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER

MR. WOLVERINE, I ASSURE YOU THOSE CLAWS OF YOURS ARE NOT NECESSARY. THERE IS NOTHING THAT I CAN DO TO HARM YOU.
I'VE HEARD THAT LINE BEFORE.


I'VE HAD MORE WOMEN TRY THAT LINE ON ME THAN YOU HAVE PANTIES, AND MOST EVERYONE OF THEM TRIED TO BUST ME UP ANYWAY--
--SO FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T TRUST YOU UNTIL I FIND OUT WHERE I AM AND WHAT'S GOING ON.
EXCUSE ME?
NOTHIN'! JUST THINKIN' OUT LOUD!
HEAD SPINNIN' AGAIN--
--MUTANT HEALING FACTOR HASN'T GOTTEN RID OF ALL THE DRUGS YET.
WHO WAS THE MONKEY THAT JUMPED ME?
WAS IT THE GAME ONE FROM THE CEMETERY?
WELL, MOSS INNOCENT...
YOU ARE NOT WELL. LET ME HELP YOU!
NO!
WHO WAS HE? WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE.
TIME TO SCARE HER A LITTLE!
TCHINK

CHH-KNG
WHAT THE--?
LEAVE THE GIRL ALONE!
IT WAS HIM. THE ONE FROM THE CEMETERY.
I'M GETTIN' PRETTY TIRED OF THIS ENTIRE SCENE. IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO IT--
--NOW!
YOU'RE FAST!
BUT I'M MAD!
STOP THIS--
--NOW!

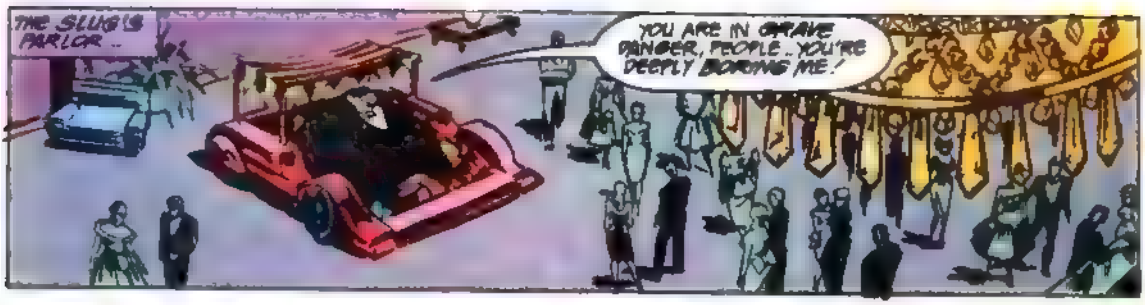
OUT OF MY WAY, OLD MAN!
I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A GO ONCE I'M DONE SLICING UP THE DEMON!
STOP..
--LOGAN-SAN!
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
WE HAVE SEVERAL MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCES. BUT THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT NOW. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT MY SON AND YOURSELF--
--HAVE BEEN MARKED FOR DEATH!
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN HELP MY SON.
LEATHER BOY HERE YOUR SON?
NO AND DESPITE HIS APPEARANCE HE IS A FRIEND...
...OR AT LEAST WE ALL SHARE THE SAME ENEMY--
--DEATHWATCH.
WOLVERINE, YOU NEED REST BEFORE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, SIR--
LEAVE ME ALONE!
IF YOU'D HAVE STOPPED TRYING TO HELP ME I'D HAVE BEEN FINE HOURS AGO!
BRIGITTE, LEAVE US. GO FIND SEAN AND BRING HIM TO ME!
THIS SON OF YOURS, IS HE THE ONE I TANGLED WITH EARLIER?
YES.
GOOD. I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM AGAIN.

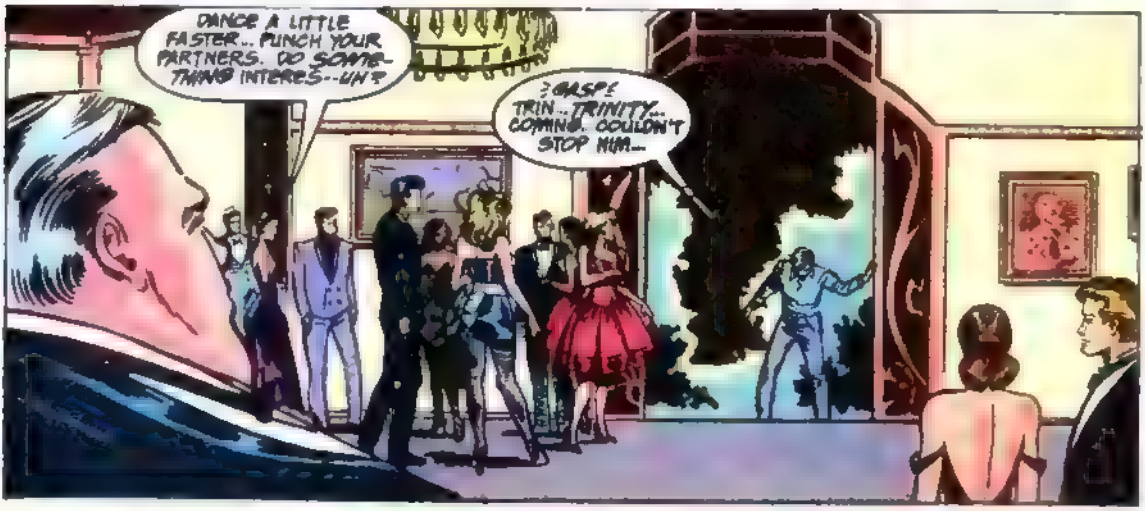
I ASSURE YOU, LOGAN-SAN, MY SON IS NOT YOUR ENEMY.
YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH HIM WAS DUE STRICTLY TO MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND BOTH OF YOUR EXPLOSIVE TEMPERS.
NO!
LISTEN.
I HEAR NOTHING--
BRIGITTE!
SNIKT
TCHINK
SHING
BOOOOOM
"WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE TEENAGE NINJA DEATHWATCHERS !! AND HERE I WAS COUNTIN' ON A REAL SCRAP."
"DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE ABILITIES OF DEATHWATCH'S MEN, WOLVERINE."
"I NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ANYONE, YUJI--IT'S JUST THAT I'M THE BEST AT WHAT I DO--"

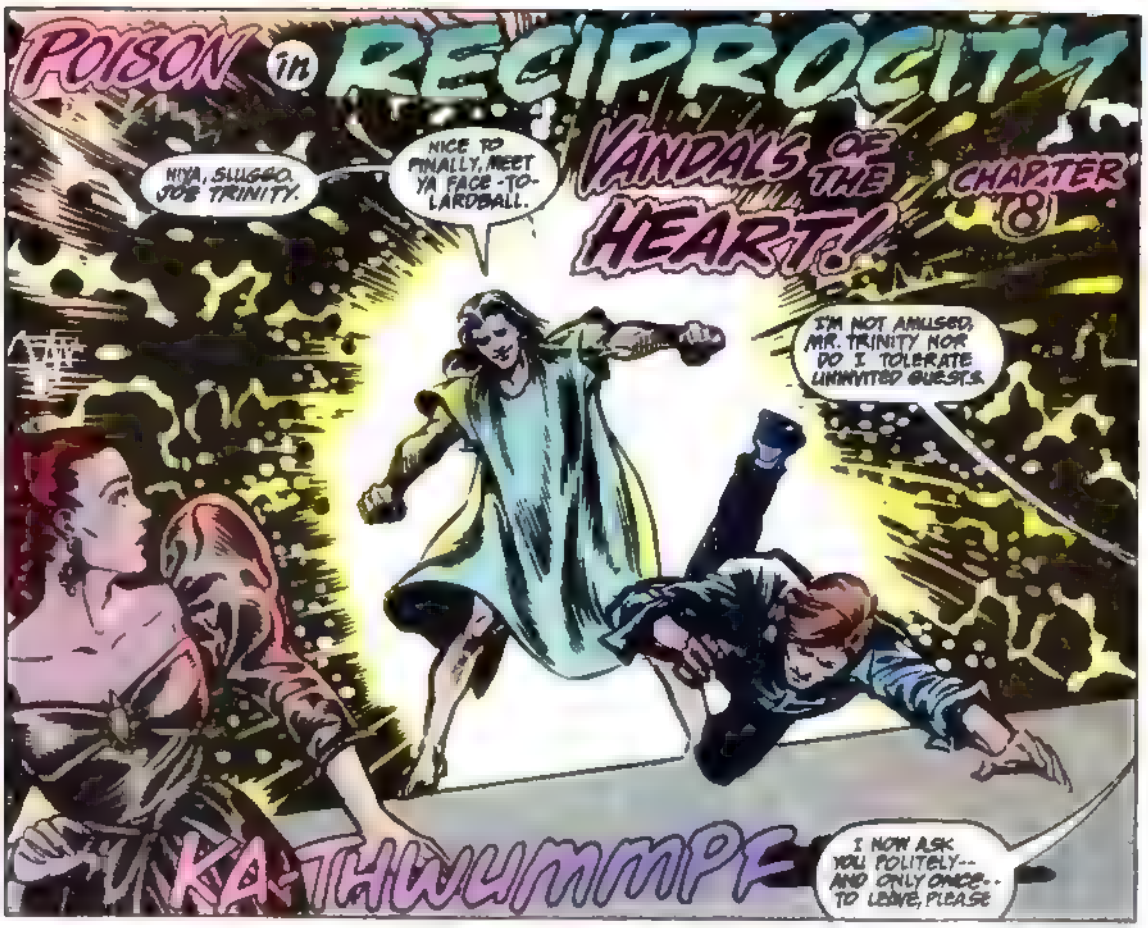
-AND THIS IS WHAT I DO BEST!
BTASH
O'MON, GUYS. NINJAS ARE OUT OF FASHION! STOP WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.
MUCH BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED HERE TODAY -NONE OF IT INNOCENT.
THEY ARE ALL COMPLETELY WILLING TO DIE FOR DEATHWATCH.
IT IS NOT ME WHO WILL DIE, OLD MAN-
--IT IS YOU AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILY IF YOU DON'T GIVE US YOUR SON AND THE MUTIE!
I'M RIGHT HERE FOR THE TAKING, YOU GQ REJECTS!
RESTRAIN YOURSELVES! WE MUST LEARN OF BRIGITTE'S WHEREABOUTS FIRST!
YES, OLD MAN-- BRIGITTE.
A LOVELY YOUNG LADY. GORGEOUS SKIN, SUCH A SMART DRESSER AND--

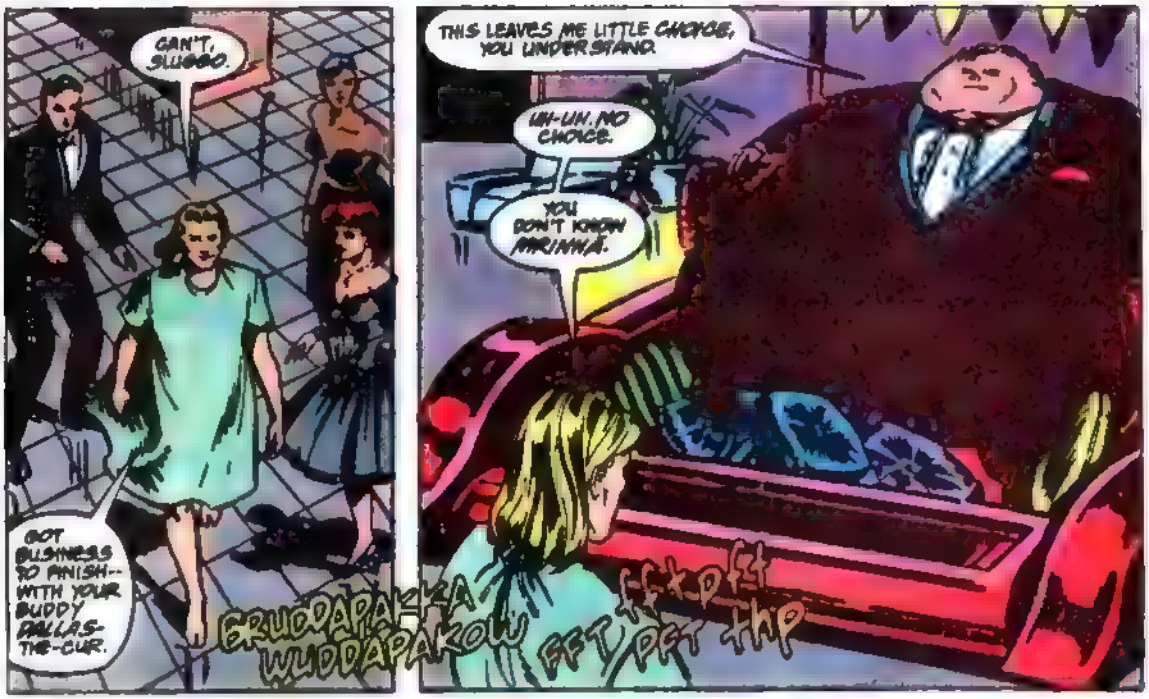
~SUCH LOVELY HAIR!
MORE PARTS OF THE DEAR CHILD WILL FOLLOW WITH EACH HOUR YOU DELAY IN TURNING YOUR SON OVER TO US!
THE MUTANT WE CAN HANDLE OURSELVES
C'MON AND HANDLE ME, CUTIES. LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE WITH THOSE SWORDS WHEN THEY'RE STICKING OUT OF YOUR~
CLANNG
POOM
FWAAM
BRING THEM TO US, OLD MAN~
~OR THE GIRL IS OURS TO DO WITH AS WE WISH!

WHERE ARE THEY?
OKAY, YUJI, WE'LL DO IT YOUR WAY...
THEY HAVE GONE AND WE MUST NOT ACT RASHLY. BRIGHTIE'S LIFE IS AT STAKE
KLAK
--BUT WHAT DOES DEATHWATCH WANT WITH YOUR SON AND ME?
I CAN ANSWER THAT, WOLVERINE. MY NAME IS SEAN WATANABE--
--THEY CALL ME BOSS!
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY. MY SISTER'S LIFE IS IN DANGER--
AND THEY'VE KIDNAPPED JACK D'AURIA FROM THE HOSPITAL.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...


THE SLUG'S PARLOR...
YOU ARE IN GRAVE DANGER, PEOPLE.. YOU'RE DEEPLY BORING ME!


DANCE A LITTLE FASTER.. PUNCH YOUR PARTNERS. DO SOMETHING INTERES--UH?
GASP! TRIN.. TRINITY... COMING. COULDN'T STOP HIM...


POISON in RECIPROCITY
VANDALS OF THE HEART!
CHAPTER 8
HIYA, SLUGGO, JOE TRINITY.
NICE TO FINALLY MEET YA FACE-TO-LARDBALL.
I'M NOT AMUSED, MR. TRINITY NOR DO I TOLERATE UNINVITED GUESTS.
KA-THWUMMPF
I NOW ASK YOU POLITELY-- AND ONLY ONCE-- TO LEAVE, PLEASE


CAN'T, SLUGGO.
GOT BUSINESS TO FINISH-- WITH YOUR BUDDY DALLAS-THE-CUR.
THIS LEAVES ME LITTLE CHOICE, YOU UNDERSTAND.
UH-UH. NO CHOICE.
YOU DON'T KNOW MRINHÄ.
ERUDDAPAKKA
WUDDAPAKOW
FFT
FFT

MRINHÄ'S BEGGIN' ME TO KILL YOU, SLUGGO.
OUGHTTA HEAR WHAT SHE'S SAYIN' ABOUT YOU--

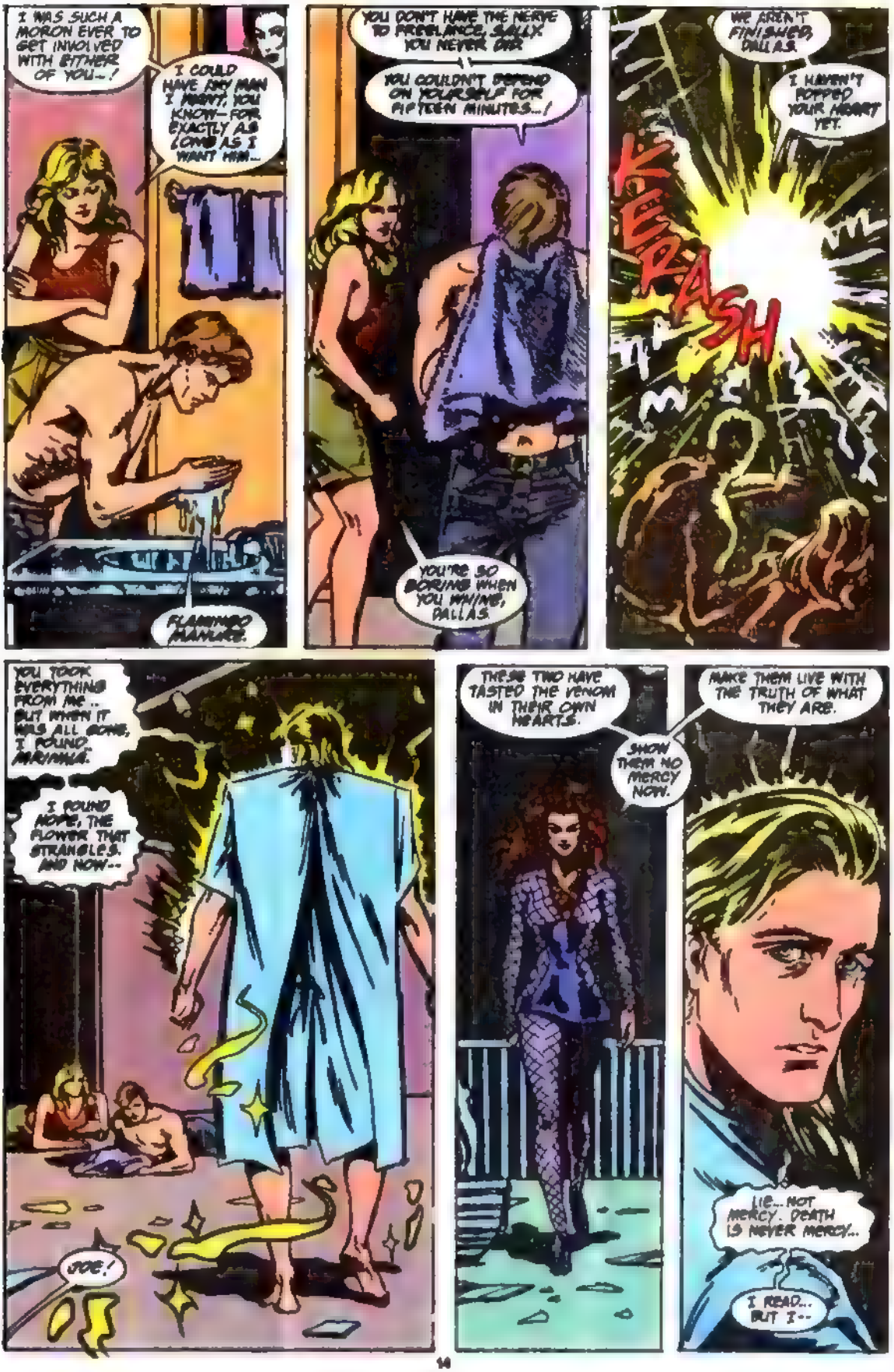
--GELATINOUS PARASITE, SCARCELY ABLE TO BREATHE WITHOUT ASSISTANCE--
A MONUMENT TO OVERINDULGENCE... FIT ONLY FOR DEATHMAN JOE... KILL IT!
SHE MEANS IT, TOO.
?HAA-UHMPH!
PHWHOMPH

BUT IT'S YOU I WANT, DILLY-DALLAS, NOT HIM.
!Phaguh!

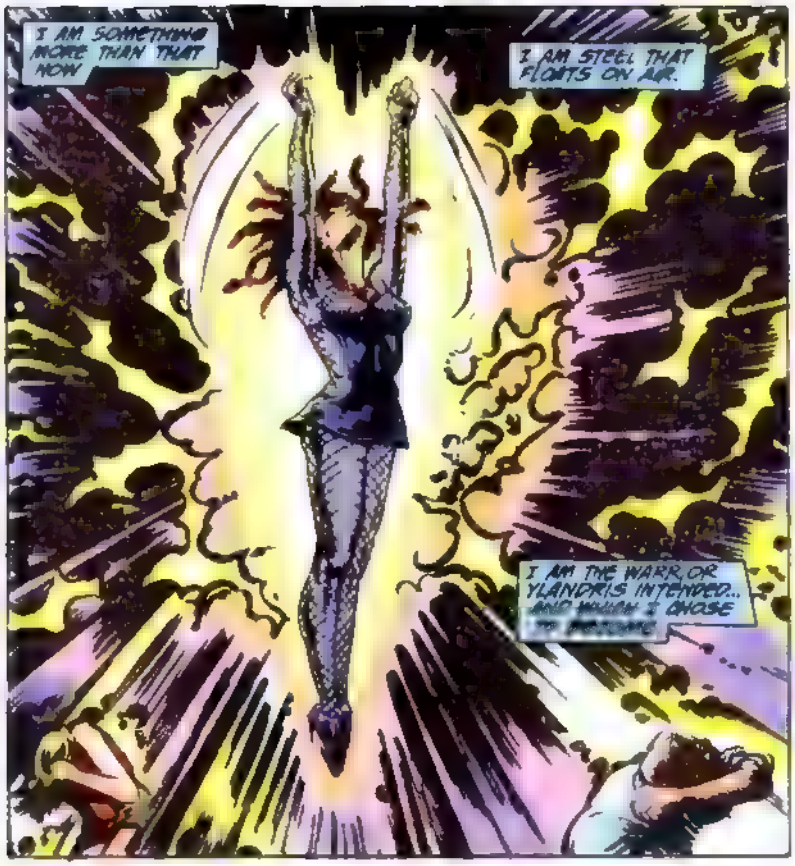
YOU...!
YOU...!
YOU!...
YOU...!
Y—
NO.
OKAY, THEN—
—YOU!
TRY
LISTEN TO ME, JOE.
YOU DO NOT WISH TO PUNISH ME, JOE... BUT SOMETHING INSIDE YOU DOES.
huhhuh...
IT WANTS TO PUNISH EVERYTHING THAT LIVES.
EACH TIME YOU HELP IT, IT DEVOURS A LITTLE BIT OF YOU.
YES. THAT IS ITS NAME.
MRINHÉ...?
PLUG THAT MANIAC NOW!

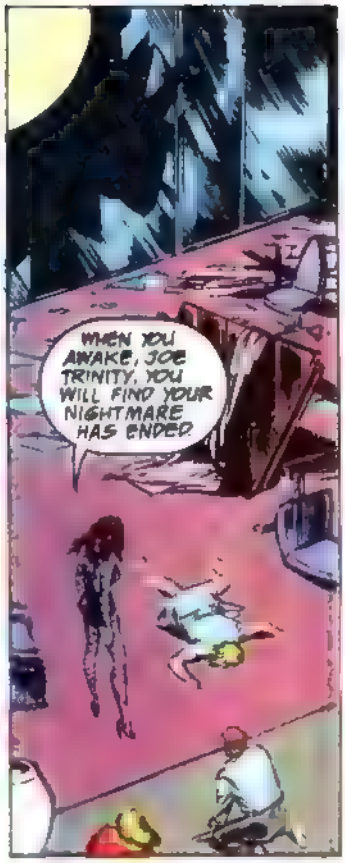
BRUDDA
POW POW
PUNNT
BRUD
CHOW
CHEOW
KRAKT
DON'T

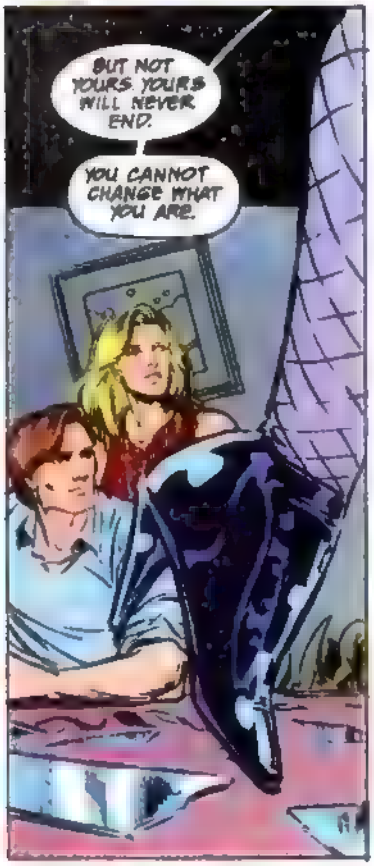
I COULD HURT YOU VERY BADLY.
AND YOU ARE NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO DEALS EASILY WITH PAIN.
CRAZY... NOT THE WAY... THINGS'RE... SUPPOSED TO WORK...
...CRAZY!
THAT'S HOW I FELT, DAL-BOY NOW YA KNOW
THERE'S MORE THAT I MUST TEACH YOU, HOWEVER... SO MUCH MORE!
I MUST GO NOW.
DO NOT MAKE ME REGRET THAT I LEAVE YOU UNHARMED.
NO YOU WON'T REGRET THAT.
"BUT THIS IS A PROMISE, SEÑORITA--
"-- SOMEDAY SOON, I AM GONNA MAKE YOU REGRET YOU WERE BORN."
A SHORT TIME LATER.
Hahaha!
JOE DID THAT? YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE AN ELEPHANT STEPPED ON IT!


I WAS SUCH A MORON EVER TO GET INVOLVED WITH EITHER OF YOU--!
I COULD HAVE ANY MAN I WANT, YOU KNOW--FOR EXACTLY AS LONG AS I WANT HIM...
FLAMING MANIAC.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE NERVE TO FREELANCE, SALLY. YOU NEVER DID.
YOU COULDN'T DEPEND ON YOURSELF FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES...!
YOU'RE SO BORING WHEN YOU WHINE, DALLAS.
WE AREN'T FINISHED, DALLAS.
I HAVEN'T POPPED YOUR HEART YET.
KERASH
YOU TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME... BUT WHEN IT WAS ALL GONE, I FOUND MARIMBA.
I FOUND HOPE, THE FLOWER THAT STRANGLES. AND NOW--
JOE!
THESE TWO HAVE TASTED THE VENOM IN THEIR OWN HEARTS.
SHOW THEM NO MERCY NOW.
MAKE THEM LIVE WITH THE TRUTH OF WHAT THEY ARE.
LIE... NOT MERCY. DEATH IS NEVER MERCY...
I READ... BUT I--

--CAN'T STOP 'ER!
I KNOW.
I CAN.
ABANDON HIM, MIRINHA, OR DIE WITH HIM.
I WILL NOT LET HIM LIVE AS YOUR SLAVE.
AS YOU WISH.
YOUR OWN BODY WOULD BE MORE USE-FUL TO ME, ANYWAY.
THEN TRY TO POSSESS IT.
NOW I WILL KNOW
THE THING IS FIRE AGAINST MY FLESH.
I COULD NOT HAVE WITHSTOOD IT BEFORE MY TIME WITH YLAMOR'S.
NOTHING HUMAN COULD.


I AM SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT NOW
I AM STEEL THAT FLOATS ON AIR.
I AM THE WARP OR YLANDRIS INTENDED... AND WOULD I CHOSE TO BECOME


WHEN YOU AWAKE, JOE TRINITY, YOU WILL FIND YOUR NIGHTMARE HAS ENDED

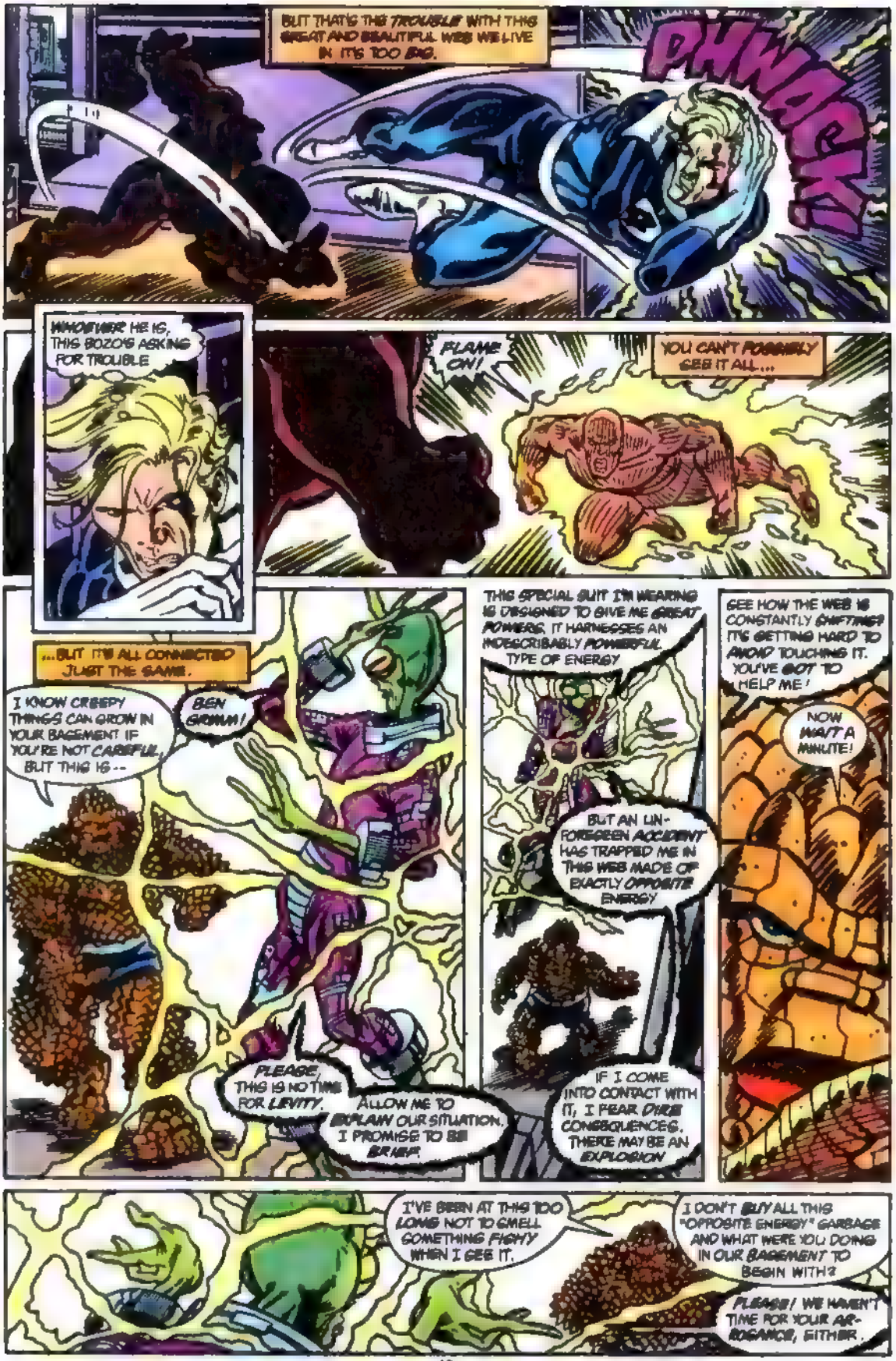

BUT NOT YOURS. YOURS WILL NEVER END.
YOU CANNOT CHANGE WHAT YOU ARE.

AND NOW YOU KNOW THAT POISON IS THE PRICE YOU WILL PAY.
EACH TIME YOU ARE TRUE TO YOUR NATURE.

I AM COMING HOME, NIRO.
THE HUNT IS OVER... FOR A TIME...
THE END

JOHNNY STORM, THE BLAZING HUMAN TORCH, STARRING IN
DEADLY DIMENSIONS
PART 4
The WEB
ITS BEAUTY IS A RARE THING IN THESE SAD TIMES. SILKEN AND TAUT, ITS FLAT PLANE IS FRAGMENTED INTO A CRAZY, ASYMMETRIC BALANCE AND SOMEWHERE -- IN THE SHADOWS TO THE SIDE OR BOLDLY WAITING IN DEAD CENTER -- SITS THE SPIDER. THE TRUE DANGER.
JOHNNY STORM DOESN'T THINK VERY MUCH ABOUT WEBS.
REED COULDN'T EVEN TELL ME OVER THE PHONE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS. JUST TOLD ME TO GET TO FANTASTIC FOUR HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THAT BEN'S IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
RUSTY
PITCH
KEEP

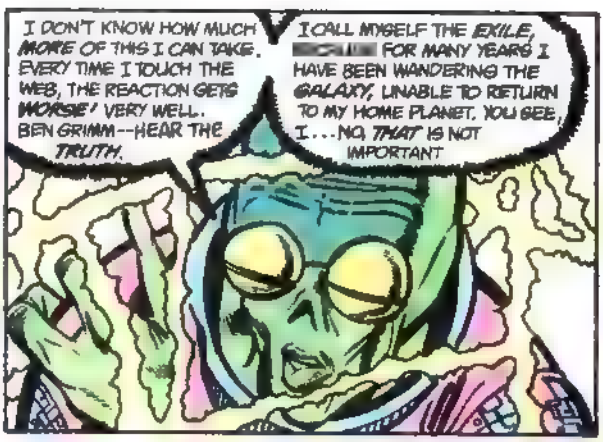
THEN A CARELESS FLY IS SNARED BY THE WEB. IMMEDIATELY, THE SPIDER KNOWS, FOR THE WEB IS TIGHT, AND EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED.
FWOOOSH
REED AND SUE ARE IN CONNECTICUT ON LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE FROM THE FF. I GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET THERE FAST ENOUGH.
WE ALL LIVE IN A WEB, A GREAT WEB BEYOND OUR IMAGININGS, STRETCHING IN ALL DIRECTIONS FARTHER THAN WE COULD EVER SEE.
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING, IT MUST BE SERIOUS IF REED DIDN'T THINK BEN COULD HANDLE IT ON HIS OWN.
REED! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D MEET ME HERE, I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY FROM CONNECTICUT
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE ALREADY HERE. WHERE'S BEN?
REED!
NO. NOT REED AT ALL.
JUST SOME KIND OF ANDROID.
HEY!
SMEK

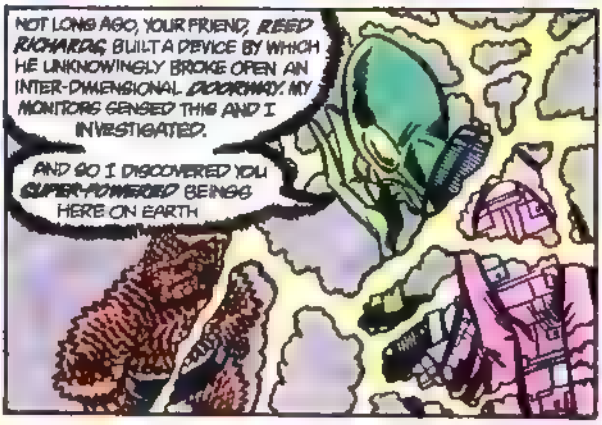

BUT THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH THIS GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL WEB WE LIVE IN. IT'S TOO BIG.
PHWACK!
WHOEVER HE IS, THIS BOZO'S ASKING FOR TROUBLE
FLAME ON!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY SEE IT ALL...
...BUT IT'S ALL CONNECTED JUST THE SAME.
I KNOW CREEPY THINGS CAN GROW IN YOUR BASEMENT IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, BUT THIS IS--
BEN GRIMM!
PLEASE! THIS IS NO TIME FOR LEVITY.
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN OUR SITUATION. I PROMISE TO BE BRIEF.
THIS SPECIAL SUIT I'M WEARING IS DESIGNED TO GIVE ME GREAT POWERS. IT HARNESSES AN INDESCRIBABLY POWERFUL TYPE OF ENERGY
BUT AN UNFORESEEN ACCIDENT HAS TRAPPED ME IN THIS WEB MADE OF EXACTLY OPPOSITE ENERGY
IF I COME INTO CONTACT WITH IT, I FEAR DIRE CONSEQUENCES. THERE MAY BE AN EXPLOSION
SEE HOW THE WEB IS CONSTANTLY SHIFTING? IT'S GETTING HARD TO AVOID TOUCHING IT. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
I'VE BEEN AT THIS TOO LONG NOT TO SMELL SOMETHING FISHY WHEN I SEE IT.
I DON'T BUY ALL THIS "OPPOSITE ENERGY" GARBAGE AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN OUR BASEMENT TO BEGIN WITH?
PLEASE! WE HAVEN'T TIME FOR YOUR ARROGANCE, EITHER.

WE ARE BOTH IN GREAT DANGER.
THE WAY IT LOOKS TO ME, YOU'RE THE ONE IN TROUBLE, BUSTER
THIS IS TOO WEIRD. I JUST HOPE THINGS DON'T GET TOO HAIRY BEFORE REED GETS HERE--NOT THAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS RETURN BUT THIS KIND O' STUFF IS RIGHT UP HIS ALLEY
AND SO WE ALL FACE THE SAME DILEMMA EVERY DAY--WE HAVE TO ACT, BUT WE CAN NEVER BE SURE WE KNOW EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW
OKAY, NOW I UNDERSTAND. THESE ARE THE SAME ANDROIDS THE MAD THINKER ONCE SENT AGAINST US. THERE'S ONE OF EACH OF US
I REMEMBER PUTTING THEM DOWN IN STORAGE WHEN WE MOVED INTO THE NEW BUILDING SOMEHOW THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE
STILL DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, THOUGH WHERE'S BEN? I CAN'T IMAGINE HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE THESE TIN-PLATED REPLICAS ON HIS OWN
GROOF!
UUUHH--!
KWAM
SERVES ME RIGHT FOR GETTING COCKY AND NOT WATCHING MY BACK
BUT I CAN GUESS WHAT THAT WAS
YEP.
SOMETIMES YOU FORGET HOW INTRICATE IT ALL IS...

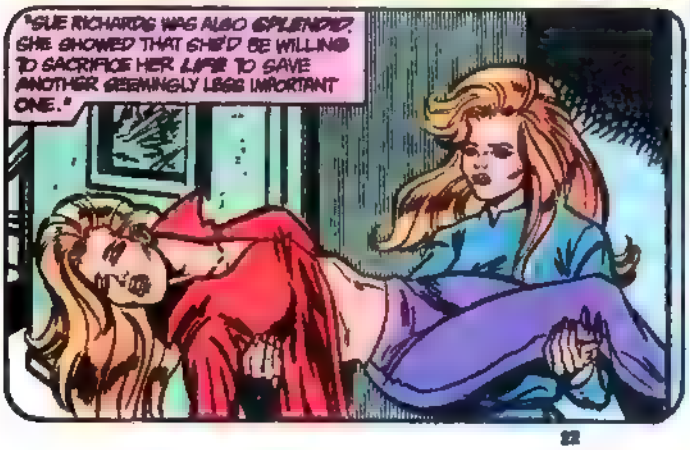
...AND THEN YOU MOVE WITH CERTAINTY AND SWIFTNESS
THIS HAS TO END. BEN MUST BE IN TROUBLE SOMEWHERE.
FRAKAM
LET'S SEE IF I CAN TAKE THEM OUT ONE AT A TIME
THIS FIRE-WALL SHOULD GIVE ME A MINUTE OR SO ALONE WITH THIS ERSATZ TORCH.
OKAY, BUDDY YOU THINK YOU'RE HOT STUFF, HUH?
YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT MY ACT DOWN!?!
WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU. YOU'RE JUST A MACHINE. THE THINKER COULDN'T HAVE GIVEN YOU ALL MY POWERS.
SURE, WE BOTH MAKE A BIG FLAME, BUT I CAN CONTROL IT. I CAN BEND ANY FIRE IN MY VICINITY TO MY WILL—INCLUDING YOURS!
YOU—YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK FOR YOURSELF!
FAZZ
SHOOT! I'VE GOT HIM EXTINGUISHED BUT I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO FINISH HIM OFF
AND HERE COME THE OTHER TWO.
THIS ISN'T WORKING. I CAN'T GENERATE A FLAME HOT ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THESE ANDROIDS WITHOUT DESTROYING ALL THE EQUIPMENT IN THE ROOM, TOO.
GOT TO GET US OUT IN THE OPEN... FAST!
LET'S SEE IF I CAN END THIS WITH MINIMUM DAMAGE
KA-PHOOOOM!
THAT REFRIGERATION UNIT IS ONE OF THE CHEAPER ITEMS REED'S INSTALLED HERE
IT SHOULD SUIT ME JUST FINE.

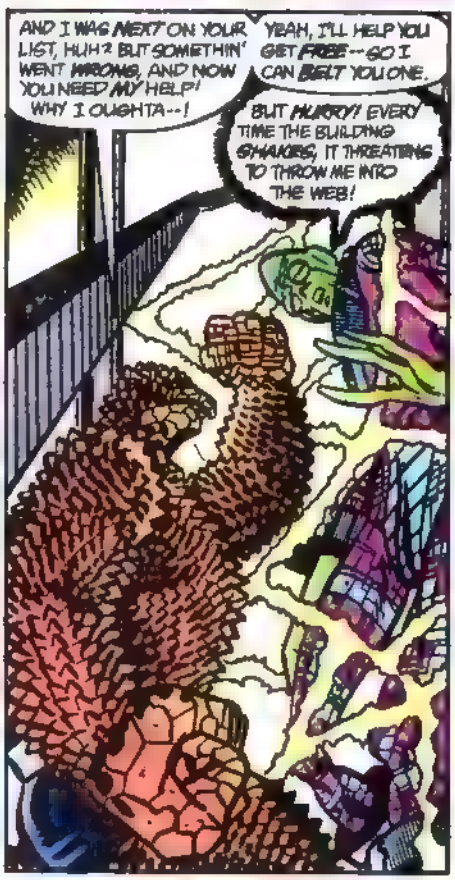
OWW!! MY ARM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
KA-PAMM
FROM THE SOUND A' THINGS, I'D SAY ONE OF THE TEAM DROPPED BY AND BUMPED INTO ONE OF THOSE ANDROIDS WANDERIN' THE HOMESTEAD!
AN' IF I KNOW MY MATES, IT'LL GET A LOT ROUGHER UPSTAIRS BEFORE IT QUIETS DOWN ANY!
LLLLEFT


I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE. EVERY TIME I TOUCH THE WEB, THE REACTION GETS WORSE! VERY WELL. BEN GRIMM--HEAR THE TRUTH.
I CALL MYSELF THE EXILE, [redacted] FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE BEEN WANDERING THE GALAXY, UNABLE TO RETURN TO MY HOME PLANET. YOU SEE, I...NO, THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT

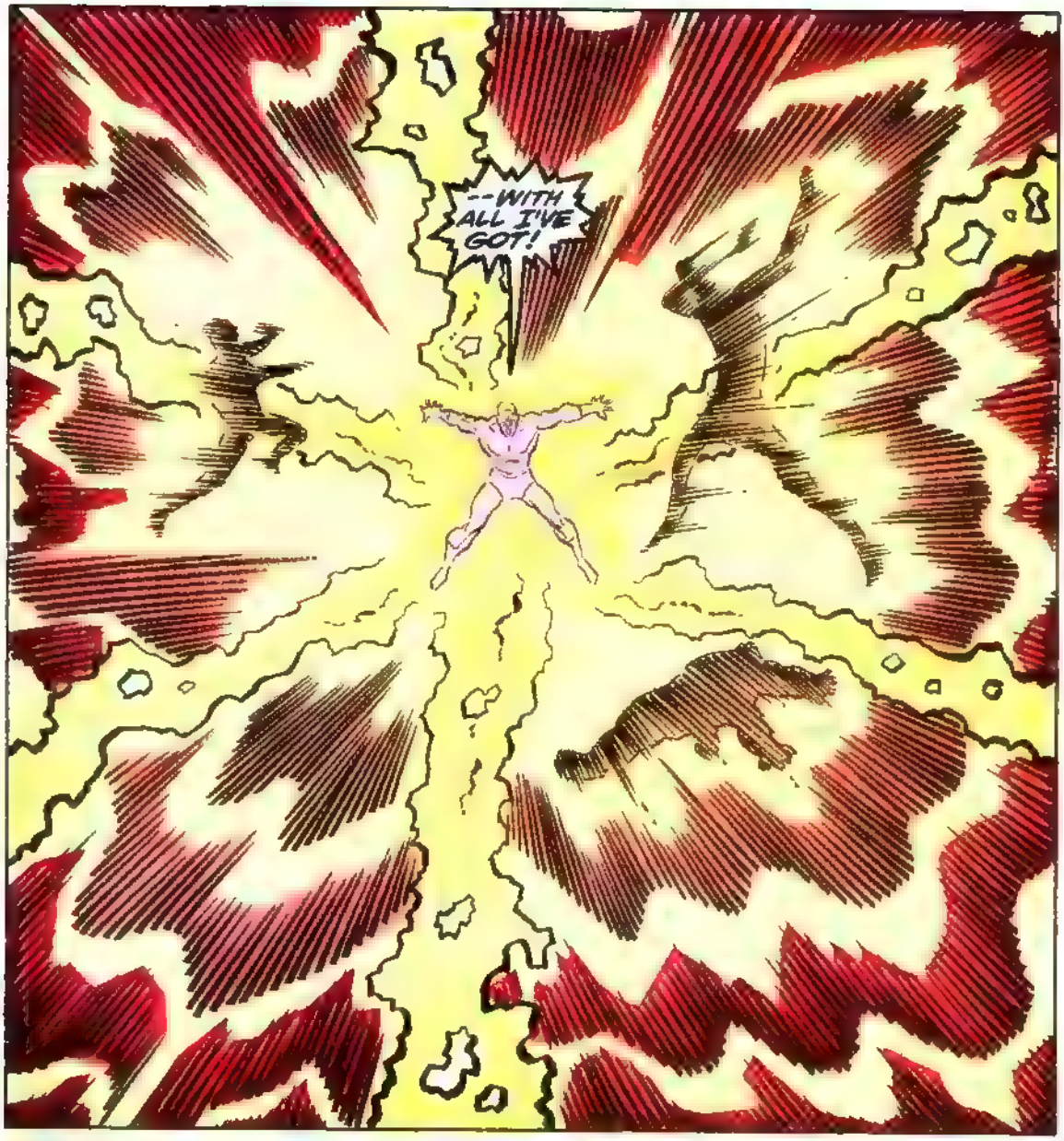

NOT LONG AGO, YOUR FRIEND, REED RICHARDS, BUILT A DEVICE BY WHICH HE UNKNOWINGLY BROKE OPEN AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY. MY MONITORS SENSED THIS AND I INVESTIGATED.
AND SO I DISCOVERED YOU SUPER-POWERED BEINGS HERE ON EARTH

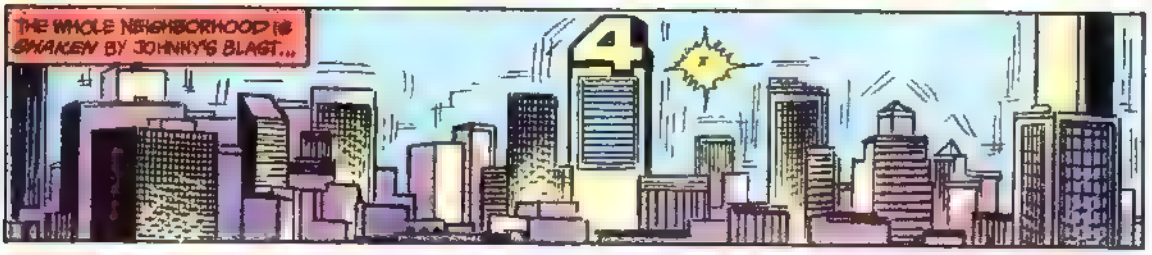
"I KNOW FIRST HAND HOW GREAT POWER CAN CORRUPT EVEN THE STRONGEST SOULS, SO I RESOLVED TO TEST EACH OF YOU TO SEE IF YOU ARE WORTHY.
"REED RICHARDS WAS THE FIRST AND HE PASSED ELEGANTLY. HE WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME IGNORANCE AND FEAR TO SAVE A DYING ALIEN'S LIFE, DISCOVERING NEW MARVELS IN THE PROCESS.

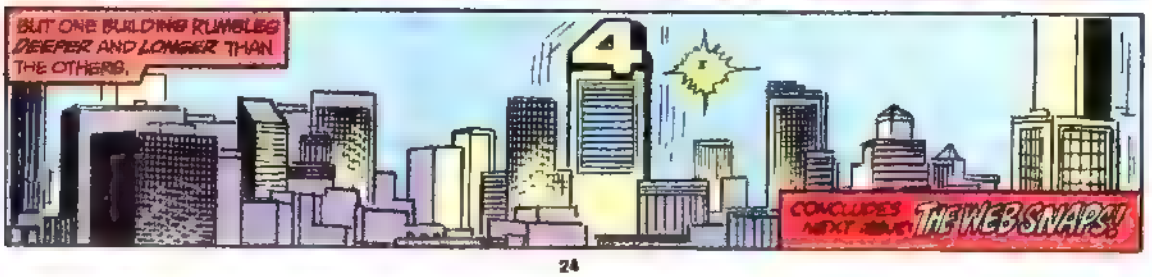

"SUE RICHARDS WAS ALSO SPLENDID. SHE SHOWED THAT SHE'D BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE HER LIFE TO SAVE ANOTHER SEEMINGLY LESS IMPORTANT ONE."


AND I WAS NEXT ON YOUR LIST, HUH? BUT SOMETHIN' WENT WRONG, AND NOW YOU NEED MY HELP! WHY I OUGHTA--!
YEAH, I'LL HELP YOU GET FREE--SO I CAN BELT YOU ONE.
BUT HURRY! EVERY TIME THE BUILDING SHAKES, IT THREATENS TO THROW ME INTO THE WEB!

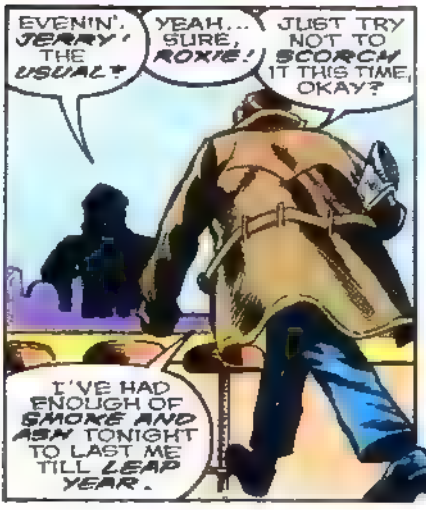
EVERY MINUTE A NEW STORM IS ADDED. THAT'S THE WAY IT IS WITH THIS GREAT WEB OF OURS.
YOU CAN'T BLAME ANYONE FOR NOT NOTICING SOMETIMES.
IT'S WORKING! THE COMBINATION OF HEAT AND COLD IS CREATING A HUGE WHIRLWIND!
OKAY, JOHNNY, THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH. GOTTA FINISH THIS BUSINESS NOW!
WHATEVER HAD REED UPSET IS A LOT BIGGER THAN THREE LEFTOVER ANDROIDS.
SORRY ABOUT THE WALL, REED...
KA-BOOM
...OOSH
...BUT MY GUESS WAS RIGHT! THE WHIRLWIND WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO BLOW US OUT THROUGH THE HOLE.
STRONG ENOUGH TO SNUFF OUT MY FLAME, TOO.
BUT IT HARDLY MATTERS. NOW THAT WE'RE FREE OF THE BUILDING, I CAN LET LOOSE --


--WITH ALL I'VE GOT!


THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IS SHAKEN BY JOHNNY'S BLAST...


BUT ONE BUILDING RUMBLES DEEPER AND LONGER THAN THE OTHERS.
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE! THE WEB SNAPS!

WELCOME TO ROXIE'S DINER.
THE FOOD MAY NOT BE PARTICULARLY EDIBLE HERE--
--BUT AT LEAST THE JOINT IS ALWAYS OPEN...

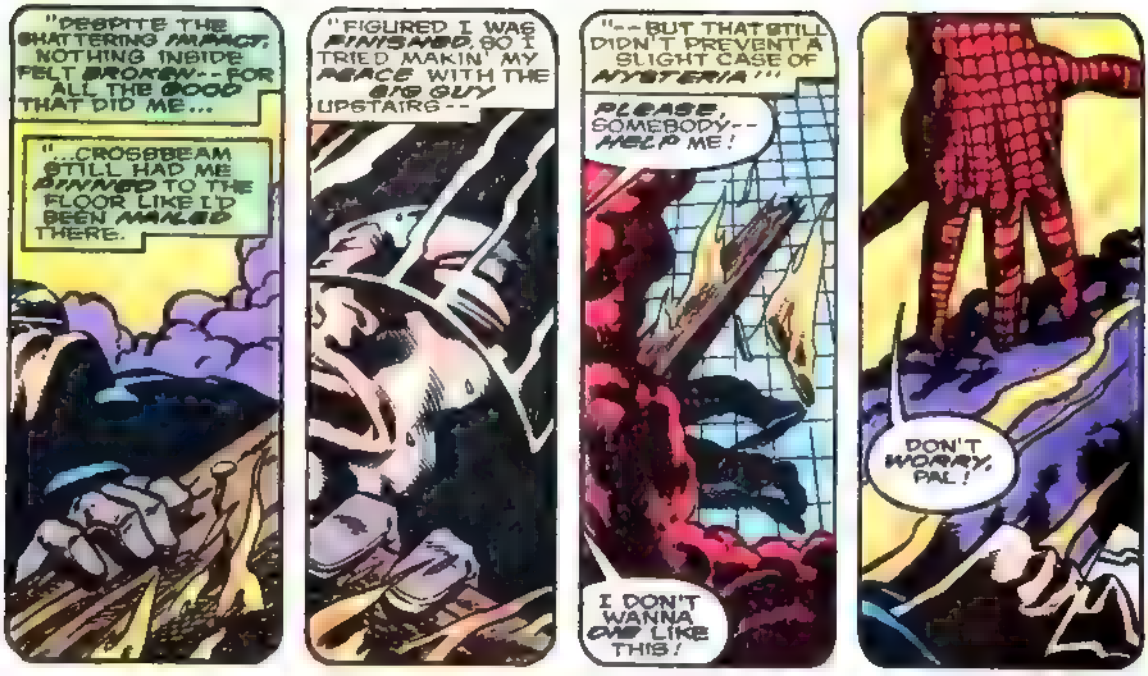

EVENIN', JERRY! THE USUAL?
YEAH... SURE, ROXIE!
JUST TRY NOT TO SCORCH IT THIS TIME, OKAY?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF SMOKE AND ASH TONIGHT TO LAST ME TILL LEAP YEAR.

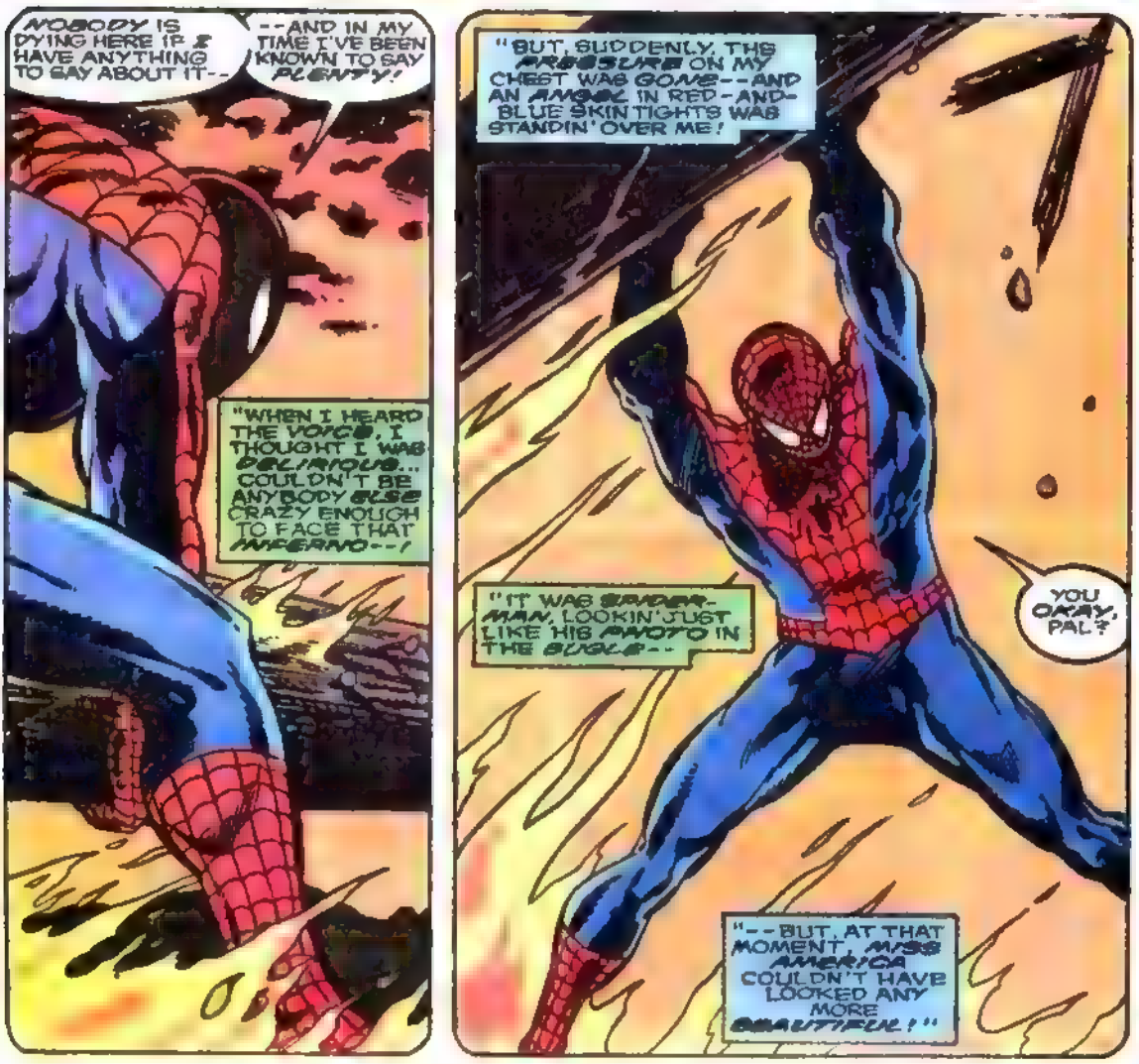
BAD ONE, HUH?
I'VE BEEN THROUGH BETTER.
GEEZ, WILL YA LOOK AT THIS? WHAT A CROCK!
SOMETHIN' ELSE WRONG?

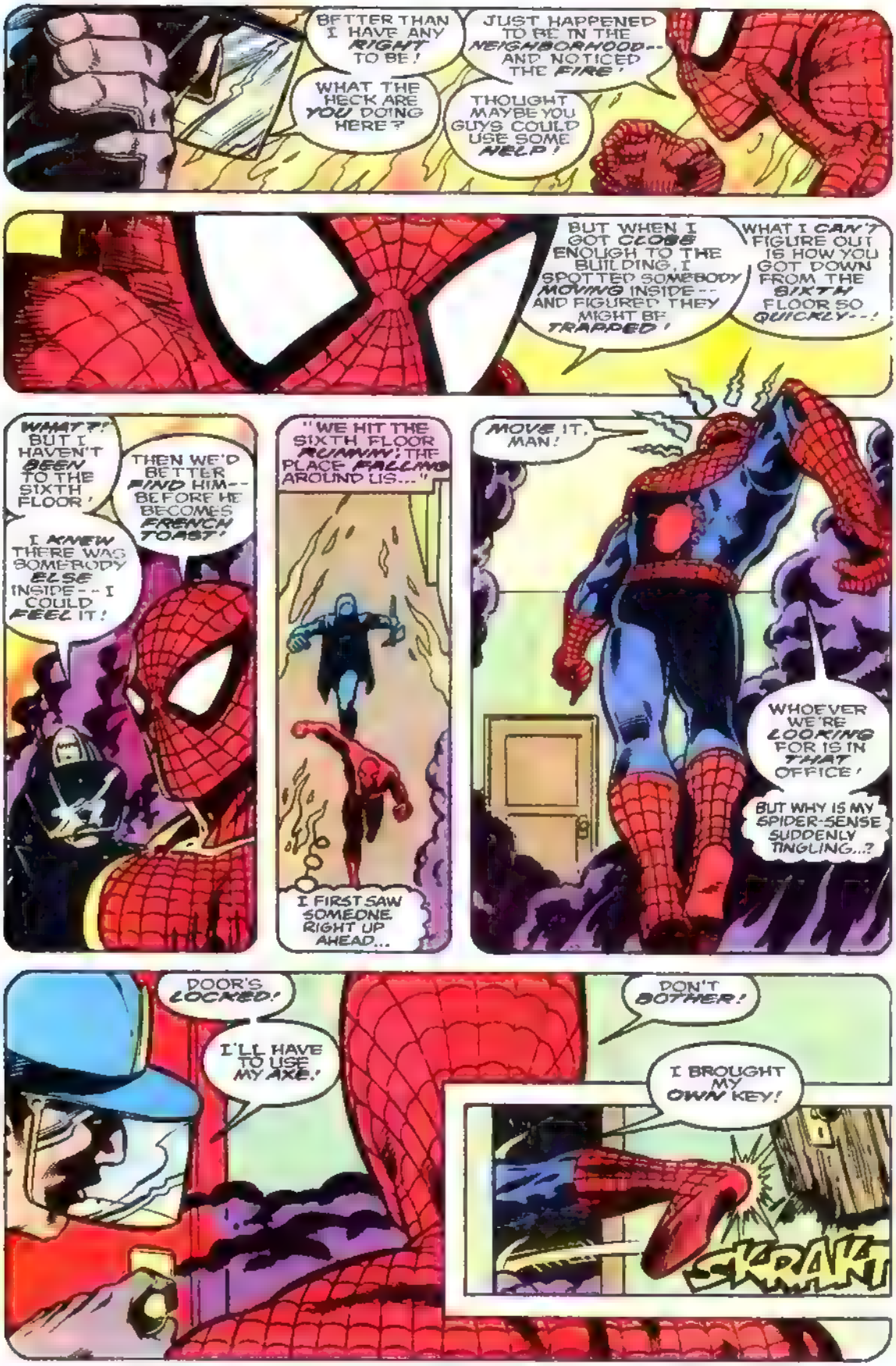
YEAH, THIS SO-CALLED ARTICLE IN THE EARLY EDITION.
AIN'T A WORD OF IT TRUE!
OH? AN' HOW DO YOU KNOW, HOTSHOT?

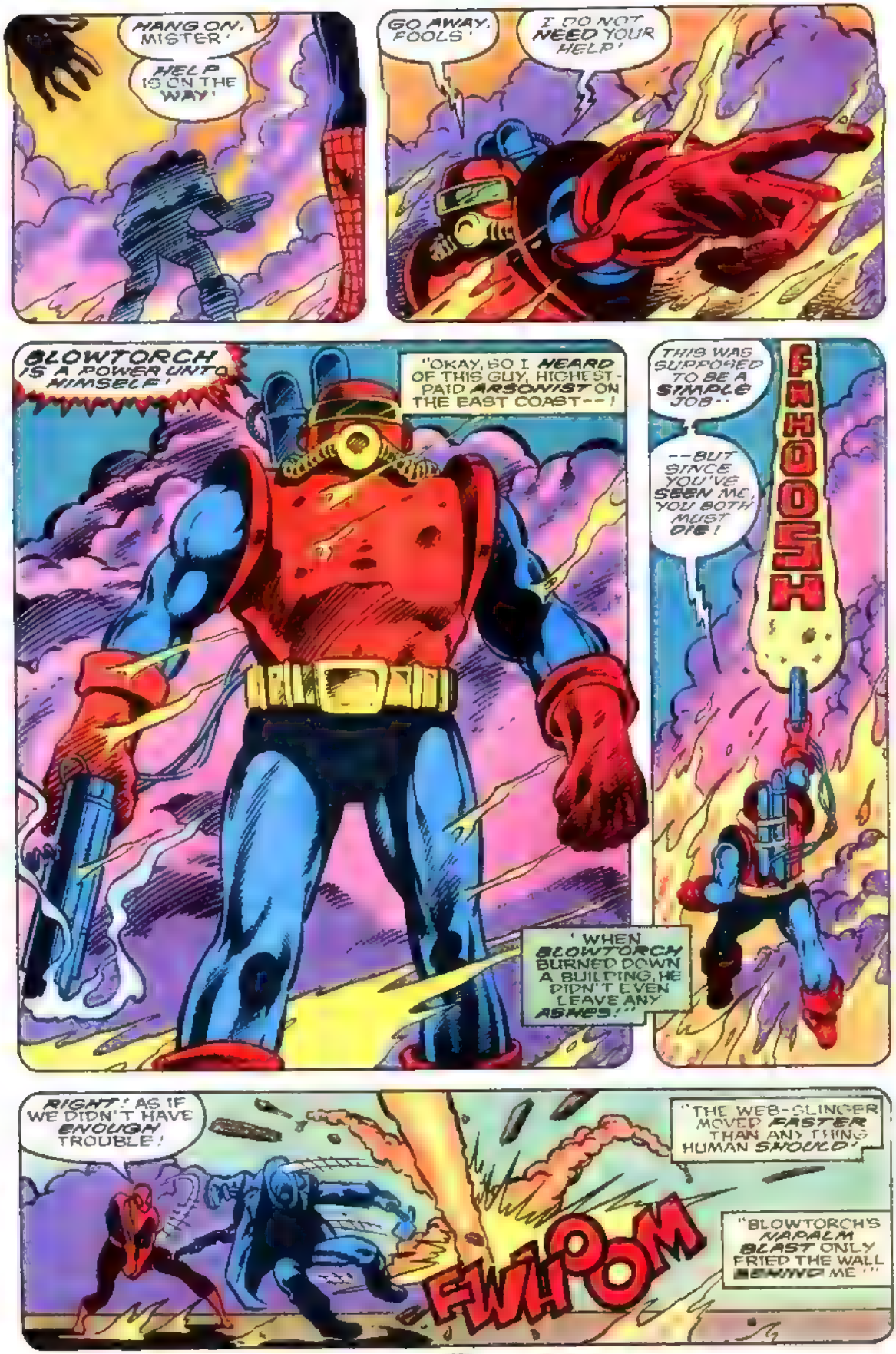
DAILY BUGLE 40¢
EASY, ROXIE -- I WAS THERE!
ROSCOE BUILDING BURNS.
SPIDER-MAN RESPONSIBLE?
SPIDER-MAN IN SLOW BURN!!

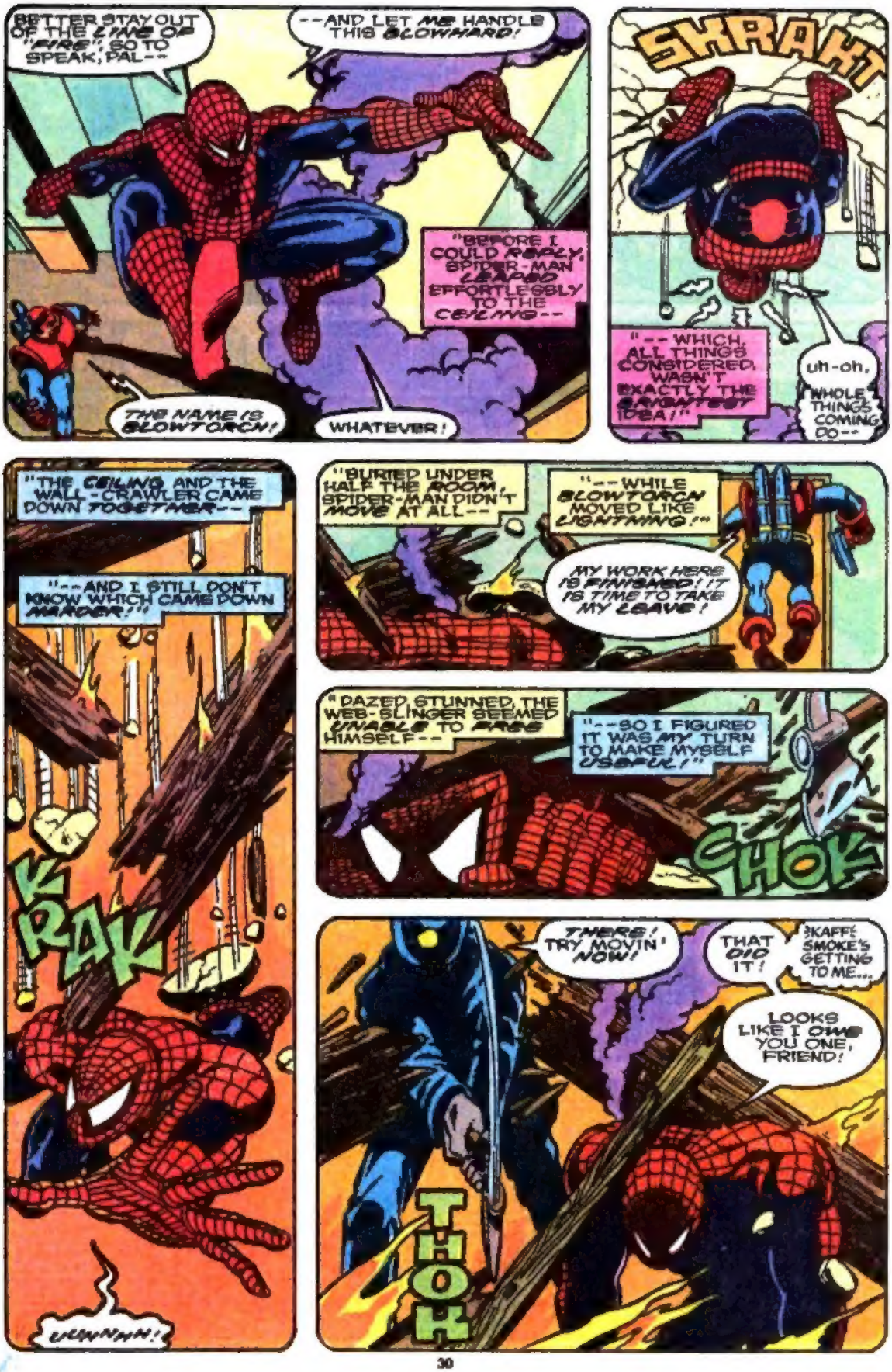
"IT WAS THAT FOUR-ALARMER EARLIER, OVER ON THE WEST SIDE--
--ALWAYS THOUGHT THE OLD ROSCOE BUILDING WAS A DEATHTRAP, AND TONIGHT PROVED IT..."
YOU OKAY, CHIEF?
I JUST DON'T GET IT, JERRY!
EVERY TIME I THINK WE HAVE THIS BLAZE UNDER CONTROL, IT JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE!
I'M GOIN' BACK INSIDE T' MAKE SURE THE PLACE IS EMPTY.
JUST BE CAREFUL, WILL YA?
I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOU!
"THINKIN' BACK ON IT, I MUST'VE BEEN CRITICALLY, THE ONLY THING HOLDIN' THAT TWENTY-STORY SMOKER TOGETHER WAS SHEER STUBBORNNESS!
"BUT I HAD ME THIS GUT FEELIN' SOMETHIN' WAS WRONG, SO IN I WENT..."
HELLO? ANYBODY IN HERE?
"BUT THE ONLY ANSWER I GOT WAS THE ECHO OF MY OWN VOICE...
"I WAS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR WHEN I SUDDENLY HEARD THE CEILING SCREAM--"
ULP!
"-- AN' FOUND MYSELF TRYIN' T' CATCH A TON OF CONCRETE WITH MY FACE!"
THROOM
NOOOOO!

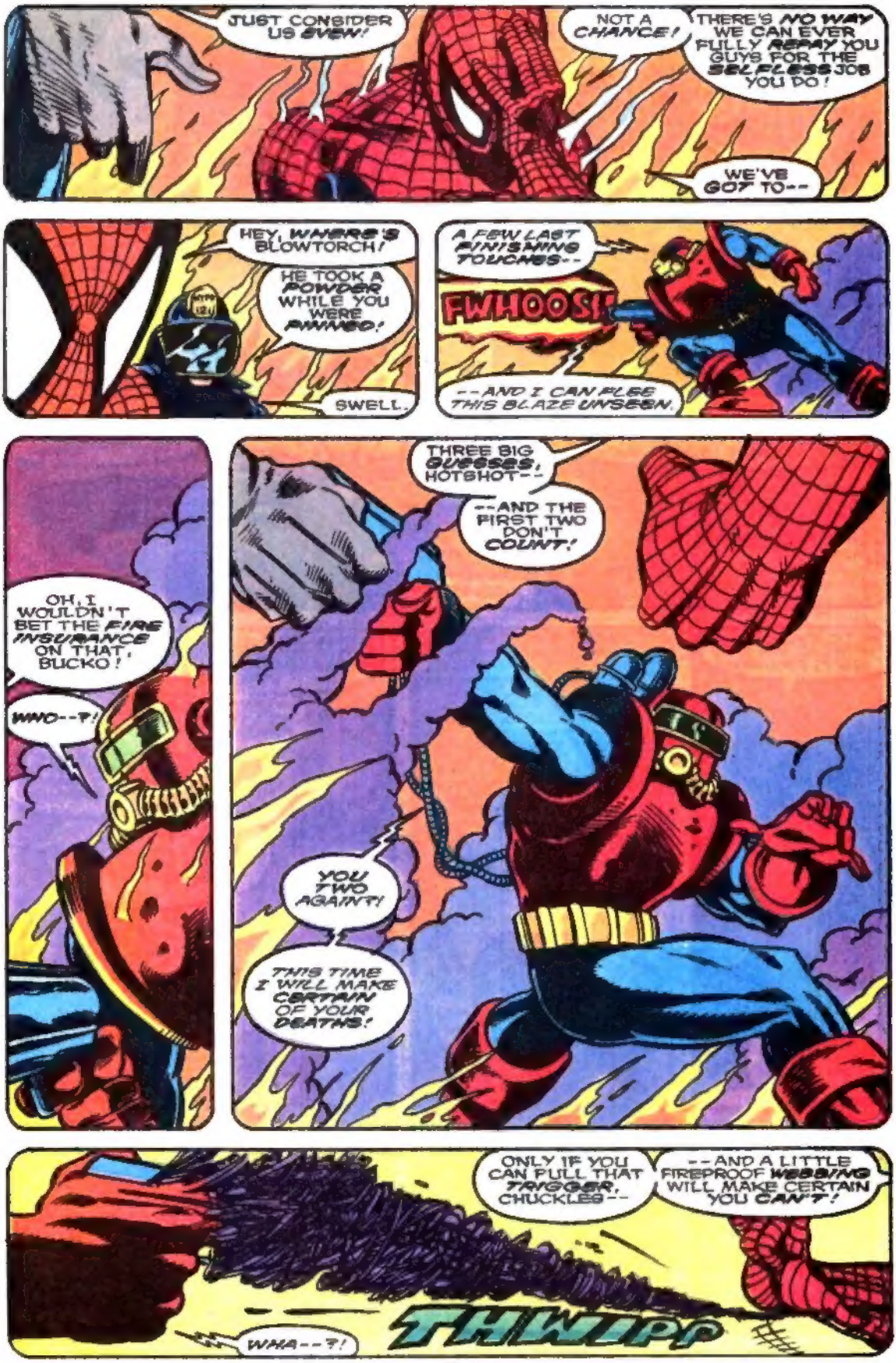

"DESPITE THE SHATTERING IMPACT, NOTHING INSIDE FELT BROKEN--FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT DID ME...
"...CROSSBEAM STILL HAD ME PINNED TO THE FLOOR LIKE I'D BEEN NAILED THERE.
"FIGURED I WAS FINISHED, SO I TRIED MAKIN' MY PEACE WITH THE BIG GUY UPSTAIRS--
"--BUT THAT STILL DIDN'T PREVENT A SLIGHT CASE OF HYSTERIA!"
PLEASE, SOMEBODY--HELP ME!
I DON'T WANNA CHECK LIKE THIS!
DON'T WORRY, PAL!

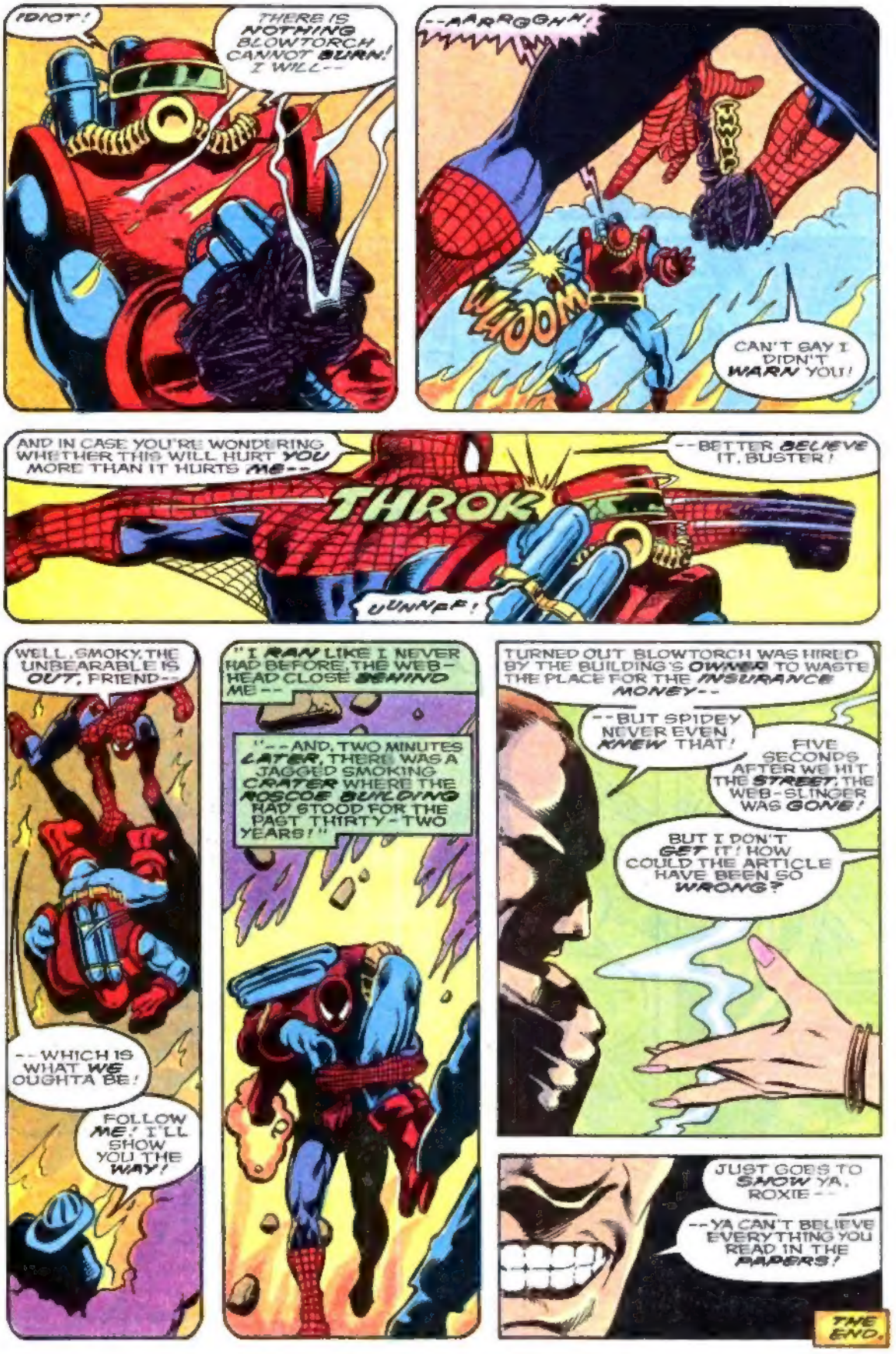

NOBODY IS DYING HERE IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT--
--AND IN MY TIME I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO SAY PLENTY!
"WHEN I HEARD THE VOICE, I THOUGHT I WAS DELIRIOUS... COULDN'T BE ANYBODY ELSE CRAZY ENOUGH TO FACE THAT INFERNO--!
"BUT, SUDDENLY, THE PRESSURE ON MY CHEST WAS GONE--AND AN ANGEL IN RED-AND-BLUE SKIN TIGHTS WAS STANDIN' OVER ME!
"IT WAS SPIDER-MAN, LOOKIN' JUST LIKE HIS PHOTO IN THE BUGLE--
YOU OKAY, PAL?
"--BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, MISS AMERICA COULDN'T HAVE LOOKED ANY MORE BEAUTIFUL!"


BETTER THAN I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BE!
JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD-- AND NOTICED THE FIRE!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THOUGHT MAYBE YOU GUYS COULD USE SOME HELP!
BUT WHEN I GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE BUILDING, I SPOTTED SOMEBODY MOVING INSIDE-- AND FIGURED THEY MIGHT BE TRAPPED!
WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS HOW YOU GOT DOWN FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR SO QUICKLY--!
WHAT?! BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE SIXTH FLOOR!
THEN WE'D BETTER FIND HIM-- BEFORE HE BECOMES FRENCH TOAST!
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMEBODY ELSE INSIDE-- I COULD FEEL IT!
"WE HIT THE SIXTH FLOOR RUNNIN'! THE PLACE FALLING AROUND US..."
I FIRST SAW SOMEONE RIGHT UP AHEAD...
MOVE IT, MAN!
WHOEVER WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS IN THAT OFFICE!
BUT WHY IS MY SPIDER-SENSE SUDDENLY TINGLING...?
DOOR'S LOCKED!
I'LL HAVE TO USE MY AXE!
DON'T BOTHER!
I BROUGHT MY OWN KEY!
SKRAKT


HANG ON, MISTER!
HELP IS ON THE WAY!
GO AWAY, FOOLS!
I DO NOT NEED YOUR HELP!
BLOWTORCH IS A POWER UNTO HIMSELF!
"OKAY, SO I HEARD OF THIS GUY, HIGHEST-PAID ARSONIST ON THE EAST COAST--!
'WHEN BLOWTORCH BURNED DOWN A BUILDING, HE DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE ANY ASHES!'"
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE JOB--
--BUT SINCE YOU'VE SEEN ME, YOU BOTH MUST DIE!
FWOOSH
RIGHT! AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE!
"THE WEB-SLINGER MOVED FASTER THAN ANYTHING HUMAN SHOULD!
FWHOOM
"BLOWTORCH'S NAPALM BLAST ONLY FRIED THE WALL BEHIND ME!"


BETTER STAY OUT OF THE LINE OF "FIRE", SO TO SPEAK, PAL--
--AND LET ME HANDLE THIS BLOWHARD!
"BEFORE I COULD REPLY, SPIDER-MAN LEAPED EFFORTLESSLY TO THE CEILING--
THE NAME IS BLOWTORCH!
WHATEVER!
SKRAKT
"--WHICH, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, WASN'T EXACTLY THE SMARTEST IDEA!"
uh-oh.
WHOLE THING'S COMING DO--
"THE CEILING AND THE WALL-CRAWLER CAME DOWN TOGETHER--
"--AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHICH CAME DOWN HARDER!"
KRAK
UHNNNH!
"BURIED UNDER HALF THE ROOM, SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T MOVE AT ALL--
"--WHILE BLOWTORCH MOVED LIKE LIGHTNING!"
MY WORK HERE IS FINISHED! IT IS TIME TO TAKE MY LEAVE!
"DAZED, STUNNED, THE WEB-SLINGER SEEMED UNABLE TO FREE HIMSELF--
"--SO I FIGURED IT WAS MY TURN TO MAKE MYSELF USEFUL!"
CHOK
THERE! TRY MOVIN' NOW!
THAT DID IT!
KAFF! SMOKE'S GETTING TO ME...
LOOKS LIKE I OWE YOU ONE, FRIEND!
THOK


JUST CONSIDER US EVEN!
NOT A CHANCE!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN EVER FULLY REPAY YOU GUYS FOR THE SELFLESS JOB YOU DO!
WE'VE GOT TO--
HEY, WHERE'S BLOWTORCH!
HE TOOK A POWDER WHILE YOU WERE PINNED!
SWELL.
A FEW LAST FINISHING TOUCHES--
FWHOOSH!
--AND I CAN FLEE THIS BLAZE UNSEEN.
OH, I WOULDN'T BET THE FIRE INSURANCE ON THAT, BUCKO!
WHO--?!
THREE BIG GUESSES, HOTSHOT--
--AND THE FIRST TWO DON'T COUNT!
YOU TWO AGAIN?!
THIS TIME I WILL MAKE CERTAIN OF YOUR DEATHS!
ONLY IF YOU CAN PULL THAT TRIGGER, CHUCKLES--
--AND A LITTLE FIREPROOF WEBBING WILL MAKE CERTAIN YOU CAN'T!
WHA--?!
THWIPP


IDIOT!
THERE IS NOTHING BLOWTORCH CANNOT BURN! I WILL--
--AARRGGHH!
WHOOM
CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!
AND IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHETHER THIS WILL HURT YOU MORE THAN IT HURTS ME--
THROK
--BETTER BELIEVE IT, BUSTER!
UUNNFF!
WELL, SMOKY, THE UNBEARABLE IS OUT, FRIEND--
--WHICH IS WHAT WE OUGHTA BE!
FOLLOW ME! I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY!
"I RAN LIKE I NEVER HAD BEFORE, THE WEB-HEAD CLOSE BEHIND ME--
"--AND, TWO MINUTES LATER, THERE WAS A JAGGED SMOKING CRATER WHERE THE ROSCOE BUILDING HAD STOOD FOR THE PAST THIRTY-TWO YEARS!"
TURNED OUT BLOWTORCH WAS HIRED BY THE BUILDING'S OWNER TO WASTE THE PLACE FOR THE INSURANCE MONEY--
--BUT SPIDEY NEVER EVEN KNEW THAT!
FIVE SECONDS AFTER WE HIT THE STREET, THE WEB-SLINGER WAS GONE!
BUT I DON'T GET IT! HOW COULD THE ARTICLE HAVE BEEN SO WRONG?
JUST GOES TO SHOW YA, ROXIE--
--YA CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE PAPERS!
THE END.

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JAVIER SALTARES '90
SPIDER-MAN SEES RED!
POISON MEETS THE SLUG!
THE HUMAN TORCH VS. THE Fantastic Four.?!